

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A format for optical analysis of samples comprising:
a light input;
an input light guide in optical communication with said light input;
an input reflector ~~in an enclosed optical communication path coupled~~ with said input light guide for forming a portion of an optical communication path;
an output reflector in optical communication with said input reflector;
a sample cavity disposed between said input reflector and said output reflector;
an output light guide coupled with said output reflector for forming a portion of said ~~in an enclosed optical communication path with said output reflector~~; and
a light output,
wherein said light input, said input light guide, said input reflector, said sample cavity, said output reflector, said output light guide, and said light output comprise ~~an approximately planar light transmission~~ said optical communication path, and wherein at least one of said input light guide and said output light guide has a wall structure to assist in guiding light along said optical communication path, said wall structure including an open end and an enclosed end, said enclosed end being coupled with said input reflector or said output reflector for forming a portion of said optical communication path, said format further comprising a lid disposed approximately parallel to said light transmission path, wherein the format further includes a reagent therein.
2. (Original) The format of claim 1 further comprising a venting channel connected to said sample cavity.
3. (Original) The format of claim 1 wherein said input light guide defines an input light path, and wherein said input reflector is disposed at about a 45-degree angle to said input light path.

4. (Original) The format of claim 3 wherein said output light guide defines an output light path, and wherein said output reflector is disposed at about a 45-degree angle to said output light path.

5. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 1 wherein the reagent is disposed within said sample cavity.

6. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 5 wherein at least a portion of said lid is adjacent said sample cavity and is provided with the reagent thereon.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A format for optical analysis of a sample comprising:
an ~~enclosed~~ input light guide ~~having an coupled with an~~ input reflector ~~disposed at one end thereof~~;
an ~~enclosed~~ output light guide ~~having an coupled with an~~ output reflector ~~disposed at one end thereof~~; and

a light transmission segment disposed between said input reflector and said output reflector, said light transmission segment so disposed as to allow light to travel through a light transmission path between said input reflector and said output reflector, said light transmission segment further having a sample cavity and a lid, said lid not intersecting said light transmission path,

wherein at least one of said input light guide and said output light guide has a wall structure to assist in guiding the light along an optical communication path, said wall structure including an open end and an enclosed end, said enclosed end being coupled with said input reflector or said output reflector for forming a portion of said optical communication path.

9. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 8 wherein said lid has ~~[[the]]~~ a reagent printed thereon.

10. (Original) The format of claim 8 further comprising a vent connected to said sample cavity.

11. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 8 wherein said input light guide has wall structure includes a top surface, a bottom surface, and two opposing side surfaces, a space between said top and bottom surfaces being an input light guide height and said light transmission segment has a top surface, a bottom surface, and two opposing side surfaces, a space between said top and bottom surfaces being a light transmission segment height, said light transmission height being greater than said input light guide height, ~~the input light guide height extending from a bottom surface to a top surface, the light transmission segment extending from a bottom surface to a top surface.~~

12. (Original) The format of claim 11 wherein said input light guide has a height of approximately 0.04 inches and said light transmission segment has a height of approximately 0.08 inches.

13. (Original) The format of claim 8 wherein said input light guide defines an input light path and said input reflector is disposed at an angle of about 45 degrees from said input light path.

14. (Original) The format of claim 8 wherein said output light guide defines an output light path and said output reflector is disposed at an angle of about 45 degrees from said output light path.

15-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 8 further including a lancet having a first end for collecting test material and a second end for depositing test material within said sample cavity.

22. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 8 wherein said sample cavity has a main cavity portion and a venting cavity connected to said main cavity portion, said main cavity portion and said venting cavity being defined by a bottom surface opposing said lid and two opposing staggered side surfaces, said main cavity portion having a width between a portion of said two opposing staggered side surfaces of about 0.007 inches;~~the main cavity portion width extending from a first side to a second side.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 8 wherein said sample cavity has a main cavity portion and a venting cavity connected to said main cavity portion, said main cavity portion and said venting cavity being defined by a bottom surface opposing said lid and two opposing staggered side surfaces, said venting cavity having a width between a portion of said two opposing staggered side surfaces of about 0.003 inches or narrower;~~the venting cavity width extending from a first side to a second side.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 8 wherein said sample cavity has main cavity portion and a venting cavity connected to said main cavity portion, said main cavity portion and said venting cavity being defined by a bottom surface opposing said lid and two opposing staggered side surfaces, said main cavity portion having a width between a first portion of said two opposing staggered side surfaces of about 0.005 inches and said venting cavity having a width between a second portion of said two opposing staggered side surfaces of about 0.002 inches;~~the main cavity portion width extending from a first side to a second side and the venting cavity width extending from a first side to a second side.~~

25. (Currently Amended) A format for optical analysis of a sample comprising:
an enclosed input light guide having coupled with an input reflector ~~disposed at one end thereof;~~

an enclosed output light guide having coupled with an output reflector ~~disposed at one end thereof;~~ and

a light transmission segment disposed between said input reflector and said output reflector, said light transmission segment so disposed as to allow light to travel through a light transmission path between said input reflector and said output reflector, said light transmission

segment further having a sample cavity and a lid, said lid not intersecting said light transmission path, wherein the format further includes a reagent therein and wherein at least one of said input light guide and said output light guide has a wall structure to assist in guiding the light along an optical communication path, said wall structure including an open end and an enclosed end, said enclosed end being coupled with said input reflector or said output reflector for forming a portion of said optical communication path.

26. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 25 further comprising a venting channel connected to said sample cavity.

27. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 25 wherein said input light guide defines an input light path, and wherein said input reflector is disposed at about a 45-degree angle to said input light path.

28. (New) The format of claim 1 wherein both of said input light guide and said output light guide has a wall structure.

29. (New) The format of claim 8 wherein both of said input light guide and said output light guide has a wall structure.

30. (New) The format of claim 8 wherein said wall structure includes a top surface, a bottom surface, and two opposing side surfaces.